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May 9, 2001

LB 833

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. You've heard the opening on AM1845 offered by Senator Aguilar to LB 833. Now open for discussion on that amendment. Those wishing to speak--Senators Coordsen, Raikes, Kremer and Brown. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. What he said, I second. I would encourage you to vote for this bill, it is...in fact addresses a local problem but it's a serious problem for the people involved. Everyone has signed off on it, it has \$2,100,000 impact in state aid in, what, 2004-2005, or 2003 and 2004 while the adjustment is being made. Without this, Grand Island Northwest is going to have a difficult time providing for the education of their children for one year. Good bill, vote for it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Raikes, followed by Senators Kremer and Brown.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I support this amendment. I think Senator Aguilar has done a good job of explaining it. To roughly recap, we have two public equalized school systems--Grand Island and Grand Island Northwest, that for a number of years have shared an arrangement in which Grand Island pays Grand Island Northwest a contract rate for educating students that are the responsibility of Grand Island. They have decided to end this arrangement and instead use the option enrollment program, which is a part of the state aid formula and used by many other public school systems. They have scheduled this well in advance. The end of the agreement won't become...come before 2004 and 2005, I think, as Senator Aguilar explained. The committee amendment was intent on making sure that each public school system got credit only for the resources that were actually available to it and got state aid payments for only those students that it actually educated. So I think in that sense there will not be a fiscal impact, that is our intention. We do not as yet have a fiscal note on that...on that proposal. But our intention is that it will be...simply accommodate the transfer and that there won't be a windfall occurring to either school. So I think it is good proposal and I think it is an appropriate part of this bill, so I support the